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BT 118*

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From [] []

SUBJECT: OTTO SKORZENY with aliases Rolf Solar, Rolf Steiner,
Jose Fernandez, OTTO Steinbauer.

SOURCE: An official ☐ with access
to the files ☐

Otto Skorzeny, the well known Nazi guerilla and sabotage
expert, is reportedly negotiating with Egypt for the
establishment of an arms factory. In this connection
he has made several trips to Egypt in the recent past.

See OFFPA-10338 (CSDB-20700)

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001/2005

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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Report provides all information available regarding SKORZENY's activities in EGYPT and SPAIN and Major General Otto Ernst REMER's (REMER) activities in EGYPT.

Information upon which this report is based is of varying degrees of authenticity. They indicate:

During SKORZENY's visit to CAIRO, he contacted all members of the RCC and was consulted on sabotage and guerrilla methods. That SKORZENY represented a Spanish arms factory (possibly ASTRA) and attempted to conclude a contract with EGYPT. Reports further indicate that SKORZENY is in contact with a group of ex-SS officers in SPAIN, but that these officers are relatively not important and are permitted to remain in SPAIN as a mark of gratitude for their help in the Spanish civil war.

Information regarding the alleged visit of General REMER to EGYPT is conflicting although the preponderance indicates that REMER did in fact visit EGYPT. There is no information as regards REMER's activity while in EGYPT.

ACTIVITIES OF GERMAN EX-OFFICERS

1. This report replies to Specific Request for Information, control Number CDNA-5530.1, dated 22 April 1953.

2. Reports previously submitted dealing with SKORZENY and REMER are as follows:

a. SKORZENY

R-25-63, 21 Jan 1953
R-33-53, 31 Jan 1953
R-35-53, 4 Feb 1953
R-47-53, 14 Feb 1953
R-52-53, 13 Feb 1953
R-137-53, 15 Apr 1953
R-152-53, 1 May 1953
R-154-53, 5 May 1953

b. REMER

Army Attache Mfr 861, 11 April 1953
R-137-53, 15 Apr 1953
R-140-53, 13 Apr 1953
R-154-53, 5 May 1953

3. SKORZENY's activities during his CAIRO visit:

a. Above listed reports indicate that SKORZENY contacted Gen NAGUIB and had discussions with all members of the RCC during his visit to EGYPT. It is probable that he also discussed the sale of arms with Brigadier Hassan TACAB, the Undersecretary of War & Marine.

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b. In R-32-53, source stated that SKORZENY was consulted on sabotage and guerrilla methods and that he was taken on an incognito tour of the SUEZ CANAL ZONE by Egyptian Army officers.

c. In R-52-53, SKORZENY denied that he represents the ASTIA Spanish arms factory. He stated that he was visiting EGYPT for the sole purpose of developing sales outlets for some of the Spanish firms he represents none of which deal in arms. The office of the Army Attache has no information to the effect that SKORZENY concluded an arms contract with EGYPT.

d. The [] advised preparing officer that SKORZENY's visit to CAIRO was in connection with civilian business and in no way connected with the Egyptian Government or military procurement. (Eval. C-5) (Comment: In view of the current attempts of the Egyptian Government to obtain military aid from the United States, preparing officer believes that the Egyptian Government is most anxious that the U.S. Govt not be appraised of attempts by the GCE to secure arms from non-NATO countries. For this reason, [] statement is evaluated as "Improbable.")

4. SKORZENY's activities in SPAIN.

a. Except as indicated above, preparing officer has no information with regard to SKORZENY's contacts with Spanish armament concerns. However, in this connection R-33-53 and R-35-53 are of interest.

b. As reported in R-154-53, source stated that SKORZENY remains in MADRID with a group of former SS officers who were associated with Admiral CANARIAS' ABWEHR. Source describes these Germans as being unimportant and that they are in MADRID with the knowledge of the Spanish Govt and they are permitted to remain as a gesture of appreciation for the help given FRANCO during the Spanish civil war.

5. REIER's activities in CAIRO.

a. The principal reports received by this office which tend to verify a visit by REIER to EGYPT have emanated from the German Embassy in Cairo. (See R-317-53 and R-142-53.) One German ex-officer, a member of the German mission in Egypt, advised preparing officer that he had no knowledge of REIER's visit. The source of R-154-53 disclaims knowledge of this visit. On the other hand, [] has provided me with the following reports:

(1) "On 10 April 1953, German newspapers reported that General Otto Ernst REIER, a fugitive from German police, fled from Germany to Egypt. He had attempted unsuccessfully to obtain appointment as adviser to Egyptian Army. He is rumored to be enroute to South America."

(2) "Col Gerhardt MERTENS facilitated REIER's entry into Egypt and is hiding him in his home. (Egyptian source: R-6)" (Comment: MERTENS is probably Major Gerhardt MERTENS. See R-313-52 and R-152-53.)

(3) "REIER arrived in Egypt in early March 1953. Brought at request of VOSS with connivance of Egyptian Consul General at HA'BU'G to help in paramilitary training of Egyptians. (R-6)"

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b. On the evening of 12 May 1953, the German Ambassador, during a conversation with preparing officer, told preparing officer that he had unimpeachable information to the effect that REMER left Cairo on or about 29 April after a visit in Cairo of about three weeks. He said REMER had entered EGYPT by means of an "Arab State" passport which he had secured in BERNE, SWITZERLAND. The Ambassador said that REMER had left AYYARA with a destination of either BEIRUT or DAMASCUS and had departed in Arab garb. When preparing officer questioned the Ambassador regarding the source of this information, Mr. FAMELPE refused to disclose the source but said the source was completely trustworthy and had personally seen REMER in EGYPT.

c. This office is unable to provide any information with regard to the possibility that REMER may represent groups in GERMANY willing to advise the Egyptian Army on guerrilla warfare.

6. Information on Egyptian Army contacts with other German officers with neo-Nazi reputations, and efforts to enlist their services. Very little information is available on this subject. S-154-53 describes the connection between Mr. BEISSNER who source states is now the WEREWOLF representative in Egypt, and the GRAND MUFTI. This same report also describes the relations between Dr. VOSS and the GRAND MUFTI. These relations are being watched closely since Dr. VOSS appears to be high in the favor of the Egyptian Government. Verification of close association between VOSS and the GRAND MUFTI and SKORZENY and BEISSNER with VOSS together with the possibility that REMER did visit EGYPT and maintained liaison with VOSS indicates the possibility that the Egyptian Government is interested in contacting such neo-NAZI organizations as the WEREWOLVES, DAS REICH, the ABWEHR officers in MADRID, and others.

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